

Message Text

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EB/AN - RABROWN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - EXTRA SECTIONS BETWEEN MIAMI AND LONDON

REF: (A) LONDON 17865; (B) STATE 265259

1. DESPITE FACT THAT MIAMI-LONDON AND CHICAGO-LONDON CAPACITY DISPUTE WAS RESOLVED ON BASIS OF US AIRLINE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS CONCERNING WINTER CAPACITY, AND DESPITE OUR OBJECTIONS TO MANNER IN WHICH UK DOT ATTEMPTED TO PORTRAY RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE AS INTERGOVERNMENTAL UNDERSTANDING ON WINTER CAPACITY, ROGERS' LETTER OF NOV 4 IMPLIES EXISTENCE OF CAPACITY REGIME--AT LEAST SO FAR AS MIAMI-LONDON IS CONCERNED. WHILE THE RECORD IS CLEAR AS TO HOW CHICAGO AND MIAMI-LONDON WINTER CAPACITY WAS DETERMINED, ROGERS' PERSISTENCE IN CHARACTERIZING SITUATION IN TERMS OF "PRECISE ARRANGEMENTS," CHANGES IN WHICH REQUIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT, CALLS FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION FOR THE RECORD.

AS EMBASSY AWARE, DOT (ROGERS) HAS IN PAST BUILT BRITISH POSITIONS ON SHAKIER FOUNDATIONS AND "PRECEDENT" THAN THE PRESENT MISREPRESENTATION OF SITUATION.

2. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY SHOULD RESPOND TO ROGERS' NOV 4 LETTER SOONEST DRAWING ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE US IS CONCERNED WITH CONTINUED DOT SUGGESTIONS THAT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND/OR AIRLINE UNDERSTANDINGS GOVERN AIRLINE CAPACITY IN US-UK MARKETS.

B. THERE ARE NO SUCH UNDERSTANDINGS.

C. THE US BELIEVES US AND BRITISH AIRLINES ARE FREE TO OPERATE REASONABLE NUMBER OF OCCASIONAL EXTRA SECTIONS TO MEET DEMAND IN PEAK PERIODS THIS WINTER.

D. THE US HAS NO OBJECTIONS, THEREFORE, TO CERTAIN EXTRA SECTIONS BRITISH AIRWAYS PLANS TO OPERATE BETWEEN MIAMI AND LONDON, WHICH IT IS UNDERSTOOD WOULD BE OFFERED DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

E. WHILE US AIRLINES HAVE NO PRESENT PLANS TO OPERATE EXTRA SECTIONS THIS WINTER, GIVEN ABSENCE OF ANY INTER-GOVERNMENTAL OR AIRLINE CAPACITY AGREEMENT TO THE CONTRARY, THE US ANTICIPATES THEY WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTIES IN DOING SO. ROBINSON

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